



U.S. Department of Justice

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**EIGHT SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON
FOR INVESTMENT FRAUD SCHEME**

Grand Rapids, Michigan – October 28, 2005 - United States Attorney Margaret M.

Chiara announced that the ringleader of a large investment fraud scheme was sentenced today for her role in operating a complicated scam that collected approximately \$20.7 million from 577 victims. Janet Mavis Marcusse, age 49, formerly of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was found guilty by a jury on June 14, 2005 of 60 counts of mail fraud, money laundering and tax fraud. Today, the Honorable Robert Holmes Bell, Chief Judge of the Western District of Michigan, sentenced Marcusse to 25 years in prison and ordered her to pay \$12,651,244.80 in restitution to the victims she and her co-defendants defrauded. Marcusse was also ordered to pay a \$6000.00 special assessment. Marcusse's prison term will be followed by three years of supervised release.

The Charges, Convictions and Sentences:

Marcusse was one of eight defendants indicted by a grand jury in October 2004. The indictment charged the eight defendants with 82 counts involving mail fraud, money laundering and tax fraud. The charges related to each defendant are outlined below. A jury listened to

evidence for four and one-half weeks and returned guilty verdicts on all counts against five of the defendants: Marcusse, George Terrance Besser, Donald Maynard Buffin, Jr., William Edward Flynn and Jeffery Alan Visser. The other three defendants pleaded guilty in mid-trial. David Rex Albrecht pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit mail fraud. Wesley Myron Boss and Diane Renae Boss pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit mail fraud, money laundering and tax fraud. All the defendants were sentenced to federal prison, ordered to make restitution to the victims and were ordered to serve a three-year term of supervised release following their respective prison sentences. The defendants received the following sentences:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sentencing Date</u>	<u>Term</u>
Janet Mavis Marcusse	10/28/05	25 years' imprisonment
David Rex Albrecht	10/07/05	5 years' imprisonment
George Terrance Besser	10/13/05	20 years' imprisonment
Diane Renae Boss	10/07/05	10 years' and one month imprisonment
Wesley Myron Boss	10/07/05	8 years' and one month imprisonment
Donald Maynard Buffin, Jr.	10/14/05	15 years' imprisonment
William Edward Flynn	10/27/05	9 years' imprisonment
Jeffery Alan Visser	10/27/05	15 years' imprisonment

The Scheme to Defraud

The evidence presented at the defendants' joint trial showed that they operated and promoted an investment scheme which they claimed was secret and unavailable to the general public. The defendants also represented that their investment activities had a long history of high monthly profits plus complete safety of a customer's principal. They claimed that their organization operated as a church or charitable entity which allowed their investors to receive their "profits" tax free. Supposedly, the investors' money funded highly profitable financial

activities in international markets not accessible to the average investor. Investors were paid a regular monthly “interest” check of between 3-10% which made the scheme look legitimate. In fact, the defendants were simply using new investor dollars to pay old investor “interest.”

From approximately 1998 to the end of 2001, the defendants, operating as the Access Financial Group, took in approximately \$20.7 million from 577 investors. In late 2001, the scheme collapsed when the defendants ran out of money to pay the monthly interest checks and disgruntled investors notified the authorities.

The subsequent investigation showed that the alleged international trading markets touted by the defendants did not exist; that the monthly “interest” checks were not generated from successful financial activity but were simply the victims’ own money paid back to make the scheme look profitable; and that the victims’ principal was not kept safe from risk but was spent by the defendants for houses, cars, airplanes, travel, jewelry and other luxury items. All the funds were spent by the defendants by the time the scheme collapsed in 2001. The defendants reported none of the income they each received from victims’ funds on their federal tax returns. The defendants washed their receipt of funds from victims by using several bank accounts into which they placed the victims’ funds in successive transfers to hide their activity. Many of the bank accounts the defendants opened were in the name of nonexistent church organizations.

The trial evidence showed that each of the defendants helped create the illusion that the Access Financial Group was a highly successful and legitimate investment organization.

Janet Mavis Marcusse and George Terrance Besser were the founders and leaders of Access Financial. Diane Boss was a promoter and office manager. David Rex Albrecht was a promoter. Wesley Myron Boss, Donald Maynard Buffin, Jr., Jeffery Alan Visser and William

Flynn were major salesmen and promoters of Access Financial.

The investigation, which began in 2001, was conducted jointly by a task force of agents from the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department, the Internal Revenue Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In 2002 Marcusse took all of the records of Access Financial and fled the West Michigan area. She was a fugitive until 2004, when she was located and arrested living in a cabin in the woods in rural Missouri. The investigators searched more than 150 bank accounts and reviewed more than 10,000 financial transactions to trace the whereabouts of the approximately \$20.7 million received by the defendants. They determined that approximately \$8.4 million was paid to investors in fake "interest" checks to lull the older investors and to attract new investors. Approximately \$4.8 million was spent by eight defendants for houses, cars, airplanes, bars, cash expenditures of all kinds, travel and other luxury purchases. Charts of their individual spending are available for inspection. Approximately \$7.4 million was spent by the defendants to promote the scheme and to make it appear to be a legitimate investment venture. None of the eight defendants reported their income from Access Financial on their federal tax returns, resulting in a tax loss of more than \$1.5 million. Investigators were able to recover little of the original \$20.7 million sent to Access Financial by investors. Many of the victims were retirees who had given their pension funds to the defendants for safe keeping.

Ms. Chiara wishes to thank the agents and officers of the task force who dedicated countless hours to bringing this investigation and prosecution to a successful conclusion. The United States Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Unit will continue to assist the many victims by locating, collecting and paying back whatever funds may be recovered from the defendants over the coming years.

Maurice M. Aouate, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation stated, "Identifying and combating actively promoted tax schemes is one of our highest compliance priorities, but the Access Financial Group took it one step further, by using false marketing techniques to create a ponzi scheme, designed to enrich the promoters over the investors. The courts have made it clear through these sentences that the American Public will not tolerate this type of financial abuse."

##END##

Access Financial
Case No. 1:04-CR-165
Hon. Chief Judge Bell

Count(s)	Defendant(s)	Statute	Charge
1-39	Janet Mavis Marcusse David Rex Albrecht George Terrance Besser Diane Renae Boss Wesley Myron Boss Donald Maynard Buffin, Jr. William Edward Flynn Jeffery Alan Visser	18 U.S.C. § 1341	Mail Fraud
40	Janet Mavis Marcusse David Rex Albrecht George Terrance Besser Diane Renae Boss Wesley Myron Boss Donald Maynard Buffin, Jr. William Edward Flynn Jeffery Alan Visser	18 U.S.C. § 371	Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud
41	Janet Mavis Marcusse David Rex Albrecht George Terrance Besser Diane Renae Boss Wesley Myron Boss Donald Maynard Buffin, Jr. William Edward Flynn Jeffery Alan Visser	18 U.S.C. § 1956(h)	Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering
42	Janet Mavis Marcusse David Rex Albrecht George Terrance Besser Diane Renae Boss Wesley Myron Boss Donald Maynard Buffin, Jr. William Edward Flynn Jeffery Alan Visser	18 U.S.C. § 371	Conspiracy to Defraud the United States

43-57	Janet Mavis Marcusse David Rex Albrecht George Terrance Besser Diane Renae Boss Wesley Myron Boss Donald Maynard Buffin, Jr. William Edward Flynn Jeffery Alan Visser	18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(A)(i)	Money Laundering
58	Janet Mavis Marcusse Diane Renae Boss	18 U.S.C. § 1957	Money Laundering
59-65	Diane Renae Boss Wesley Myron Boss	18 U.S.C. § 1957	Money Laundering
66-68	Donald Maynard Buffin, Jr.	18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(B)(i)	Money Laundering
69-71	Jeffery Alan Visser	18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(B)(i)	Money Laundering
72-76	David Rex Albrecht	18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(B)(i)	Money Laundering
77-80	William Edward Flynn	18 U.S.C. § 1957	Money Laundering
81-82	Janet Mavis Marcusse William Edward Flynn	18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(B)(I)	Money Laundering
83	Janet Mavis Marcusse David Rex Albrecht George Terrance Besser Diane Renae Boss Wesley Myron Boss Donald Maynard Buffin, Jr. William Edward Flynn Jeffery Alan Visser	18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)©	Forfeiture